

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Research and Science Education  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**BRIAN BAIRD**  
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August 12, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H232 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H107 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

Last week, I returned home to Southwest Washington where I had two town hall meetings to hear from my constituents. I also visited with victims of the housing crisis, truckers who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of skyrocketing diesel prices, and county governments that are having difficulty covering the cost of basic services for their residents. I believe that there is more work that we can do to address these challenges, which are being faced by communities throughout this country. For this reason, I am writing to respectfully request that you reconsider adjourning at the end of September. I recommend that the House of Representatives meet through most of October and then reconvene following the November election.

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished this Congress under your leadership. I am confident that the landmark housing legislation we passed last month will help responsible people stay in their homes and strengthen the housing market. In addition, I am proud of the unprecedented work we have done to provide for our nation's veterans, to lower the cost of higher education, and to strengthen our consumer protection laws to keep our families and our children safe.

I also believe we have every reason to celebrate the provisions included in the comprehensive energy package we passed last year. The bill makes critically important strides in solving our energy crisis by increasing energy efficiency and investing in alternative fuels. I also appreciate the attempts that you have made in recent months to bring legislation to the House floor to address escalating gas prices. I am extremely disappointed that these well-intentioned efforts have been thwarted by our Republican colleagues.

It is important that we build upon our successes and continue our work to address the concerns of communities throughout this country. Of course, I recognize that our ability to address the challenges facing our country is contingent on the willingness of Minority Leader Boehner and the Republicans to work with us in good faith. As a result, if you can get an agreement from our Republican colleagues that they are willing to work with us in a constructive manner to tackle these problems, I believe that it would be productive and worthwhile to extend the session through most of October and then return after the November elections.

Again, I want to reiterate how proud I am of the work we have done this session. Because I am confident that we can continue to build upon this strong record and pass more legislation to help people throughout this country who are struggling, I urge you to reconsider adjourning at the end of September.

If you have any questions about this or want more information on the concerns that I heard last week in Southwest Washington, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Baird", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brian Baird